

QA-558

Dominion Church

Chester vicinity, Queen Anne's County

Constructed 1917

Privately owned

#### ***SUMMARY DESCRIPTION***

Dominion Church is located in the Dominion community on Crab Alley Neck, Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. The property stands on the west side of Little Creek Road and consists of a 1917 church and a ca. 1930 hall, both in fair condition. The church is a 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame building with a front-gable roof. The hall is a 1-story, 4-bay, wood-frame building with a front-gable roof. Both buildings are weathered and have undergone minor changes.

#### ***SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE***

Dominion Church was constructed in 1917 by and for the African American community surrounding the Dominion community. The congregation remained in Dominion until 1970, then merged with two other African American congregations to form the Union Wesley United Methodist Church in Chester. Dominion Church is significant as a rare surviving landmark associated with the African American community on Kent Island.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-558

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic      Dominion Church (preferred)  
other      Shining Light Pillar of Truth Church of the Apostolic Faith

### 2. Location

street and number    1202 Little Creek Road      not for publication  
city, town      Chester      X vicinity  
county      Queen Anne's

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name      Shining Light Pillar of Truth Church of the Apostolic Faith  
street and number    P.O. Box 344      telephone    (410) 643-2652  
city, town      Chester      state    MD      zip code    21619-0344

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.    Queen Anne's County Circuit Court      liber    SM 729 folio    340  
city, town      Centreville      tax map    64      tax parcel    24      tax ID number    04-025350

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- \_\_\_\_ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
\_\_\_\_ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
\_\_\_\_ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
\_\_\_\_ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
\_\_\_\_ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
\_\_\_\_ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
____ district	____ public	____ agriculture	Contributing
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	____ landscape	Noncontributing
____ structure	____ both	____ commerce/trade	2
____ site		____ recreation/culture	0
____ object		<u>X</u> religion	0
		____ social	0
		____ education	0
		____ transportation	0
		____ funerary	2
		____ work in progress	0
		____ government	0
		____ unknown	0
		____ health care	0
		____ vacant/not in use	0
		____ industry	0
		____ other:	0
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			0

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. QA-558

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### *SUMMARY DESCRIPTION*

Dominion Church is located in the Dominion community on Crab Alley Neck, Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. The property stands on the west side of Little Creek Road and consists of a 1917 church and a ca. 1930 hall, both in fair condition. The church is a 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame building with a front-gable roof. The hall is a 1-story, 4-bay, wood-frame building with a front-gable roof. Both buildings have undergone minor changes.

### *ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION*

Dominion Church is located in the Dominion community on Crab Alley Neck, Kent Island, Queen Anne's County. The property consists of a 1917 church and a ca. 1930 hall, both in fair condition. The church and hall occupy a flat, grassy lot on the west side of Little Creek Road and are surrounded by the closely spaced, wood-frame houses that characterize Dominion.

Dominion Church, constructed in 1917, is a 1-story, 3-bay, wood-frame religious building. It has a concrete-block foundation, drop siding with cornerboards, and an asphalt-shingle, front-gable roof with a boxed cornice. A brick chimney stands against the north elevation. Entry is through a small, gabled vestibule that projects from the center of the front (east) elevation. The vestibule has double paneled doors within a plain surround with a boarded-over transom. There are small, 1-light windows on the north and south walls of the vestibule. A diamond-shaped window occupies the gable over the vestibule. The sanctuary has 2/2 wood, double-hung windows with some colored glass panes. The windows have plain surrounds and remnants of hinges for shutters. A small, gabled apse projects from the center of the rear (west) elevation. The roof of the apse has remnants of wood shakes.

The church hall stands south of the church building. The 1-story, 4-bay, wood-frame hall dates to ca. 1930. The hall has a poured concrete foundation, Masonite siding, and a corrugated metal, front-gable roof with no overhang. A brick chimney stands against the west elevation. On each end of the front (east) elevation is a half-glass wood door. There is a recent flush door on the rear (west) elevation. There are two 1/1 wood, double-hung windows on the east elevation. The other elevations have 9-light wood awning windows. Many have been boarded over.

Attempts to contact the current congregation failed, therefore the interiors of the buildings were not accessed.

Dominion Church is weathered but in fair condition. Changes to the building, such as replacement of the roof and removal of the shutters, are minor and do not reduce its integrity. The exterior siding and some windows and doors on the church hall appear to be replacements. Still, the building's design is legible.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-558

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1917 (construction) **Architect/Builder** unknown

**Construction dates** 1917 (church), ca. 1930 (hall)

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### ***SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE***

Dominion Church was constructed in 1917 by and for the African Americans in the Dominion community. The church is significant as a rare surviving landmark associated with the African American community on Kent Island.

### ***RESOURCE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE***

Dominion Church was constructed in 1917 to serve the African American community. The church is significant as a rare surviving landmark associated with the African American community on Kent Island. In *Of History and Houses*, Mildred Schoch quotes the following history of Dominion Church:

In 1916, a group of men from Dominion decided they would like to build a church in their community, as they were holding Sunday School in various homes and later in an office building owned by Mr. J. Harry Jones. A plot of land was given by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas. People from all over Kent Island gave donations of money to purchase the building materials from Kirwan's Lumber Yard. The church was completed, no debt was owing on it as everyone had given his time, money, and talents.

The ladies also wanted to help and organized the Ladies Aid Society in March, 1917, and put the furnishings inside the little church. In November 1917 the church was dedicated to God.<sup>1</sup>

The congregation remained at Dominion Church until 1970, then merged with two other African American congregations to form the Union Wesley United Methodist Church in Chester.

African American churches were critical institutions within their communities in that they provided safe places for African Americans to gather. Because African Americans could not participate in mainstream politics, enter many public buildings, or hold public assemblies outside of church, their churches doubled as civic centers. Churches provided opportunities for activism, leadership, and personal advancement. In addition, churches enforced standards of public behavior (forbidding, for example, drinking, dancing or fighting) and provided a location for picnics, lectures, and other social activities.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Schoch, 36.

<sup>2</sup> Betty Bird, Betty Bird & Associates LLC. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-558

Betty Bird, Betty Bird & Associates LLC. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for African-American Historic Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland. 2003.

Schoch, Mildred C. *Of History and Houses: A Kent Island Heritage*. Queenstown, Maryland: Queen Anne Press, 1982.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.57 acres  
Acreage of historical setting unknown  
Quadrangle name Kent Island

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for Dominion Church corresponds to the boundary for Queen Anne's County Tax Map 64, Parcel 24. This parcel consists of 0.57 acres and is bounded on the west and north by adjacent parcels, on the east by Little Creek Road, and on the south by Church Street. The boundary encompasses all land still associated with Dominion Church.

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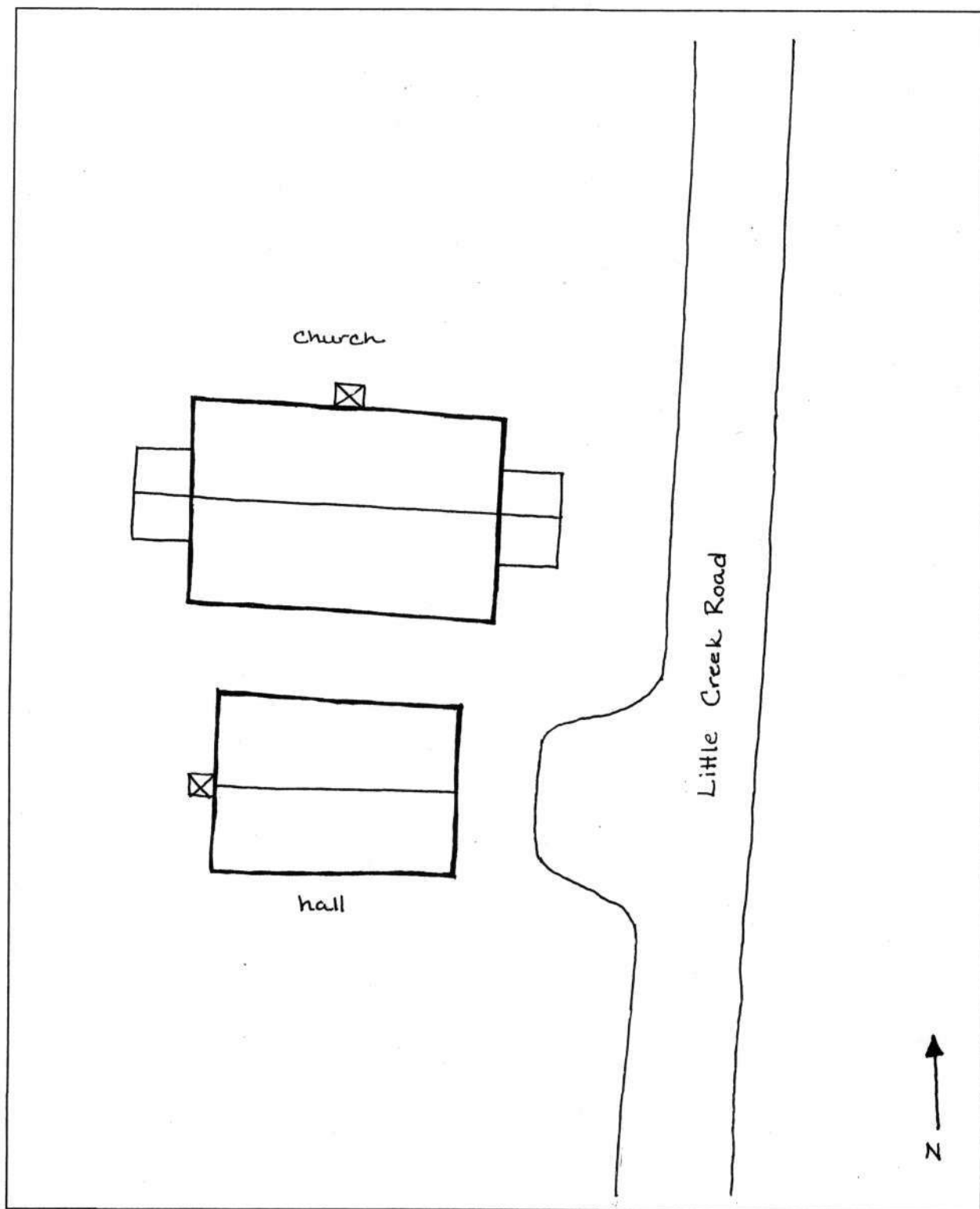
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Julie Darsie		
organization	Betty Bird & Associates LLC	date	August 2005
street & number	2607 24 <sup>th</sup> St., NW, Suite 3	telephone	(202) 588-9033
city or town	Washington, District of Columbia	state	N/A

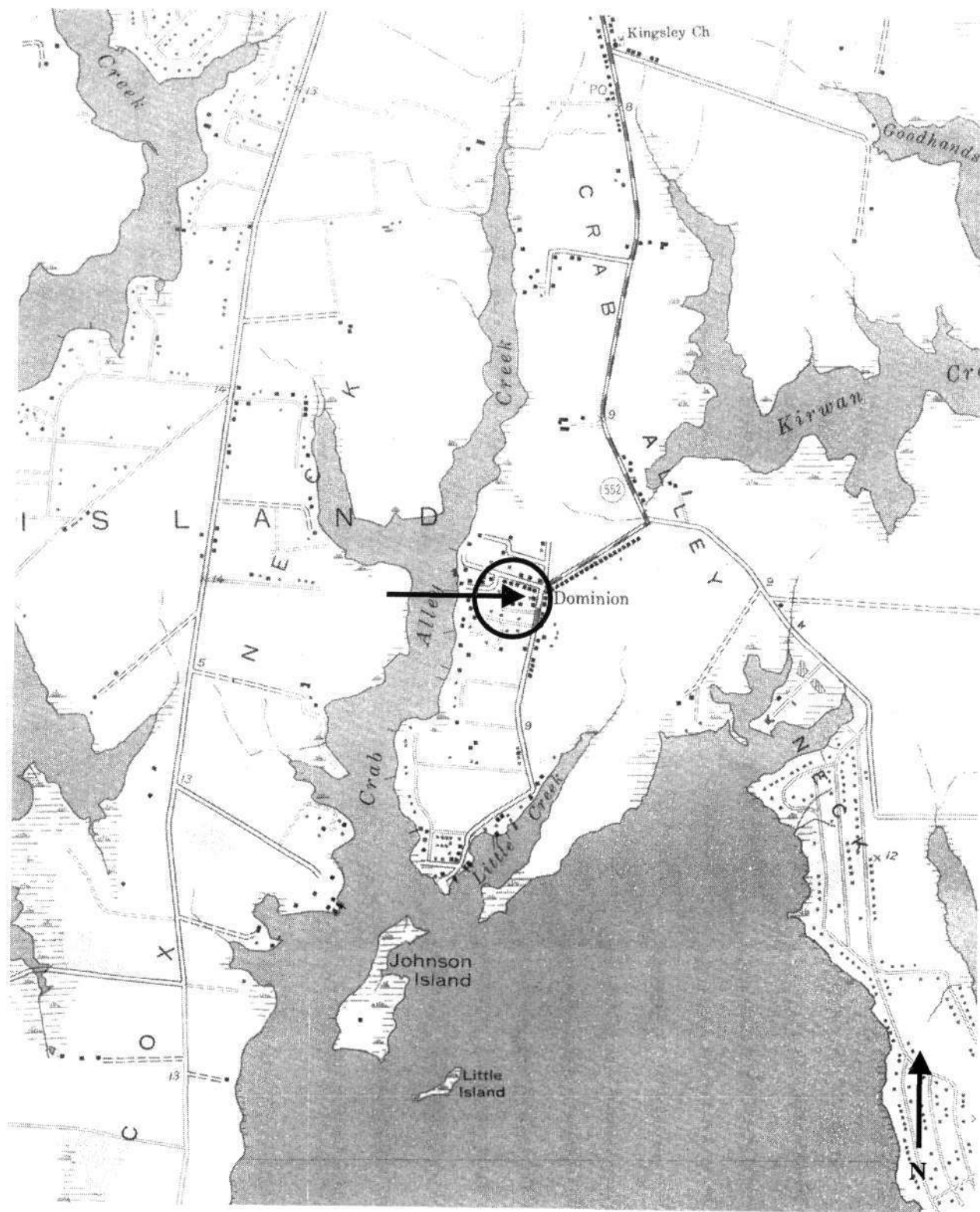
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



**Site Plan**  
**QA-558**  
**Dominion Church**  
Chester Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland



**QA-558**

**Dominion Church**

Chester Vicinity, Queen Anne's County, Maryland  
Kent Island, Maryland Quadrangle (1:24,000)







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Dominion Church

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

August 2005

mp SHPO

View from SE showing south and east facades of Hall  
(left) and Church (right).

lot 4



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Dominion Church

Queen Annes County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

View from NE showing east and north elevations of Hall  
(left) and Church (right)

2 of 4



QA-558

Dominion Church

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

View from NW showing west elevation of Church (left)  
and west and north elevations of Hall (right).

3 of 4



QA-558

Dominion Church

Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Julie Darsie for Betty Bird & Associates

July 2005

MD SHPO

View from SW showing west and south elevations of  
Church (left) and Hall (right),

4 of 4